

by all over agencies. So this should be investigated fully.

(iv) SPREADING OF JAUNDICE IN AN EPIDEMIC FORM IN HILL DISTRICTS OF UTTAR PRADESH

श्री हरीश रावत (प्रलमोड़ा) : अध्यक्ष जी, मैं नियम 377 के अन्तर्गत लोक महत्त्व की बातों की ओर माननीय रक्षा मंत्री, गृह मंत्री और स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ।

उत्तर प्रदेश के पर्वतीय जिलों में पीलिया नाम का रोग भयंकर रूप से फैला हुआ है। रानीखेत व उसके निकटवर्ती क्षेत्रों में इस रोग से कई लोगों की मौत हो चुकी है। इस महामारी को रोकने में स्वास्थ्य विभाग बिल्कुल असफल रहा है। इस रोग का पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में भयंकर रूप से फैलने का कारण स्पष्ट रूप से ज्ञात नहीं हो पा रहा है। क्षेत्रीय जनता को शका है कि इस रोग का कारण विगत वर्ष पर्वतीय क्षेत्र में हुए कुछ विस्फोटों से सम्बन्धित है। ये विस्फोट उस समय हुए जब कि कुछ विदेशी नागरिक इस सीमान्त क्षेत्र में शंकास्पद रूप से घूमते हुए पाये गये हैं।

क्षेत्रीय जनता के स्वास्थ्य के साथ साथ देश के सीमान्त की सुरक्षा का मवाल भी जुड़ा हुआ है। अतः केन्द्रीय सरकार अपनी किसी ऐसी एजेंसी द्वारा इस बात की तत्परता से जाच करवाये।

(v) REPORTED CASES OF CRIMINAL ASSAULT ON WOMEN IN BIHAR AND MADHYA PRADESH

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Under rule 377 I want to raise one matter. On 13th of March the Patriot has reported two incidents of rape from two states under President's rule viz. Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. In Bihar, a young Harijan woman of Bijwania village in Champatia block under West Champaran was criminally assaulted by a co-villager. The police have registered a case. No arrest has been made so far. At Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh two young sisters, one of them married, were raped at the point of knife and forced to cook food by about a dozen drunk men who beset their house in the thinly populated locality on the 11th March. Such news of rape are often reported in the Press now-a-days. Many more incidents take place which are not reported. In view of the fact that

rape should be considered a crime against humanity, I draw the attention of the government to take immediate steps for apprehending and punishing the culprits in these two cases, as well as to devise more effective mean in the legal, administrative and social fields to curb this evil effectively in all parts of the country.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV (Azamgarh): Under rule 377 such cases are brought to the notice of the House. The whole nation feels concerned about such serious cases. Would you ask the Minister to tell us what steps are being taken so that we may know.

MR. SPEAKER: It is brought to the notice of government.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: The Minister should make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER: We cannot do it. Action has to be initiated by them.

12.20 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET, 1980-81—GENERAL DISCUSSION, DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (ON ACCOUNT), 1980-81, AND SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1979-80—Contd.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): Mr. Speaker, I have heard with great interest and attention the contribution made by all sections of the House. In the concluding part of my address I invited the House to offer constructive suggestions for framing the regular budget for the year 1980-81. A large number of suggestions have been made on the floor of the House such as expanded expenditure on some of the projects like irrigation, industries, rural development, support to village and rural industries, etc. I am thankful to all the Members for the various suggestions they have made. I am sure that in the revamped budget which will come up in the course of the year these suggestions will be reflected and adequate provisions made therefor.